CLAIMS

1. A method of treating anxiety or insomnia comprising administering a therapeutic amount of an alprazolam, estazolam, midazolam or triazolam condensation aerosol, having an MMAD less than 3 μm and less than 5% alprazolam, estazolam, midazolam or triazolam degradation products, to a patient by inhalation, upon activation by the patient of the formation of, and delivery of, the condensation aerosol.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said condensation aerosol is formed by

a. volatilizing alprazolam, estazolam, midazolam or triazolam under conditions effective to produce a heated vapor of the alprazolam, estazolam, midazolam or triazolam, and

b. condensing the heated vapor of the alprazolam, estazolam, midazolam or triazolam to form condensation aerosol particles.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the condensation aerosol is formed at a rate greater than 0.5 mg/second.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said therapeutic amount of alprazolam condensation aerosol comprises between 0.05 mg and 4 mg of alprazolam delivered in a single inspiration.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said therapeutic amount of estazolam condensation aerosol comprises between 0.05 mg and 4 mg of estazolam delivered in a single inspiration.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said therapeutic amount of midazolam condensation aerosol comprises between 0.05 mg and 4 mg of midazolam delivered in a single inspiration.

7. The method according to claim 1 wherein said therapeutic amount of triazolam condensation aerosol comprises between 0.006 mg and 0.5 mg of triazolam delivered in a single inspiration.

8. The method according to claim 2, wherein said administration results in a peak plasma concentration of said alprazolam, estazolam, midazolam or triazolam in less than 0.1 hours.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least 50% by weight of the condensation aerosol is amorphous in form.

10. A method of administering alprazolam, estazolam, midazolam, or triazolam to a patient to achieve a peak plasma drug concentration rapidly, comprising administering to the patient by inhalation an aerosol of alprazolam, estazolam, midazolam, or triazolam having less than 5% alprazolam, estazolam, midazolam, or triazolam degradation products and an MMAD less than 3 microns wherein the peak plasma drug concentration is achieved in less than 0.1 hours.

11. A kit for delivering a drug aerosol comprising:

a) a thin coating of an alprazolam, estazolam, midazolam, or triazolam composition, and

b) a device for dispensing said thin coating as a condensation aerosol.

12. The kit of claim 11, wherein said coating has a thickness between 0.7-4.8 microns.

13. The kit of claim 11, wherein the device for dispensing said coating as a condensation aerosol comprises:

(a) a flow through enclosure,

(b) contained within the enclosure, a metal substrate with a foil-like surface and having a thin coating of alprazolam, estazolam, midazolam, or triazolam composition formed on the substrate surface,

(c) a power source that can be activated to heat the substrate to a temperature effective to volatilize the alprazolam, estazolam, midazolam, or triazolam composition contained in said coating, and

(d) inlet and exit portals through which air can be drawn through said device by inhalation,

wherein heating the substrate by activation of the power source is effective to form a alprazolam, estazolam, midazolam, or triazolam vapor containing less than 5% alprazolam, estazolam, midazolam, or triazolam degradation products, and drawing air through said chamber is effective to condense the alprazolam, estazolam, midazolam, or triazolam vapor to form aerosol particles wherein the aerosol has an MMAD of less than 3 microns.

14. The kit according to claim 13, wherein the heat for heating the substrate is generated by an exothermic chemical reaction.

15. The kit according to claim 14, wherein said exothermic chemical reaction is oxidation of combustible materials.

16. The kit according to claim 13, wherein the heat for heating the substrate is generated by passage of current through an electrical resistance element.

17. The kit according to claim 13, wherein said substrate has a surface area dimensioned to accommodate a therapeutic dose of alprazolam, estazolam, midazolam, or triazolam composition in said coating.

18. The kit according to claim 11, wherein a peak plasma concentration of alprazolam, estazolam, midazolam, or triazolam is obtained in less than 0.1 hours after delivery of condensation aerosol to the pulmonary system.

19. The kit of claim 11, further including instructions for use.